

No. 11

John Clark New Jersey

No. 13

In
1818.
An Inaugural Dissertation on the
Cotulicium autumnale
With an experimental account in order to
prove the similarity between it and the
Medicinalis du Rupion.

Submitted to the examination of the
Provost, Vice Provost, Trustees, and Medical
Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania,

John Y Clark of New Jersey

Honorary Member of Philadelphia
Medical Society.

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

"We ought in every instance, to submit
our reasoning to the test of experiment,
and never to search for truth but
by the natural road of experiment
and observation".

Lavoisier.

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Gentlemen,

It is with the greatest diffidence
that I now offer for your, My Inaugural Differ-
eration on the Colchicum Autumnale.

It cannot be expected that a person should
communicate many original ideas who has been
but three years in the study, the time of which
is a little more than sufficient to acquire the ele-
mentary principles of so extensive a science as that
of Physic. Persons who have spent the longest
life in the most laborious study, and collecting
not only all the facts possible from their own
experience and observations, but also from an infinite
number of volumes, written by men of the
most profound learning, professional, and of great
abilities, have not been suffered to establish a
theory free from objections. Although the subject
which I have chosen has not as yet appeared to
engage the attention of Physicians, and I hope
that its being the product of a juvenile mind will
apologize for its imperfections.

I confess I feel a strong desire to direct the
attention of Physicians to the subject, with the
hope that the Colchicum may be tried more exten-
sively as a remedy in the treatment of diseases.

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Little has hitherto been done in this respect except by Ark Collin and Pleak who celebrated its virtues in Hydrothorae and other diseases.

A wide extended field still remains open, which promises no contemptible harvest to the diligent cultivator. It may be confidently expected of every agent which acts powerfully on the living system that when we attain a sufficient knowledge of its properties to enable us to apply it with proper discrimination and to temper its operations judiciously, that it will prove eminently beneficial as a medicine. The whole catalogue of our active remedies is illustrative of the position: And hence in the language of the old schools, "All medicines in large doses are poisons, and all poisons in small doses are the best medicines." However stupendous this opinion may have been to the feeling of Physicians, it was familiar to the penetrating eye of the Philosophic Shakespeare, who makes poor Laertes in his soliloquy exclaim
 "Within the infant vial of the small flower
 Poisons hath residence, and medicine a power;
 For this being smelt, with that sense cheers a part,
 Being tasted, slays all sensus with the heart."
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out a fairer prospect of being usefull than this
bolchium. Although I feel deeply sensible of
my inability to write an essay free from imperfections
yet I consider one purpose for which a Thesis is
intended, to shew the extent of a candidates reading
and observation, and I hope to be excused for any
imperfections which it may contain. Recollecting
the words of an Ancient Author who says, "we
should set a double value on our present knowledge
though it be imperfect and restrain the rude hands
that are ever ready to pluck up the tender plants
of science, because they do not bear fruit at a season
when they can only be putting forth their bloom
impresed with the generosity of those ideas. I submit
my essay to the candid investigation of the Philosophes
whose patronage stamps the merit of every youthful
genius activity to the mind and eases to future
investigations.

I shall proceed in the first place
to treat of the History, Properties, & Preparations;
Secondly and lastly, of its effects in the cure of
diseases.

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Botanical History

Colchicum. Meadow Saffron.

Clap Hexandria; Order Trigynia; Flower inferior,
 calyx a spatha - corolla 6 parted with its tube
 springing from the root. Capsule 3 celled the cells
 connected inflated. Of this genus there are but
 40 species yet recognised by Botanists vizt 1st Au-
 tumnale; 2nd Montanum of Spain & Switzerland;
 3rd Variegatum - Isle of Chios; 4th Byzanticum - the
 Levant. All of these species are perennial.
 The first of these species vizt the autumnale will
 be the subject of this Dissertation.

Colchicum Autumnale

The root is a perennial consisting of a solid double
 succulent bulb, covered with a brown membranous
 coat; the flower is large of a purplish colour, and
 rises immediately from the tuber resembling some-
 what the common saffron: Darwin the celebrated
 poet has elegantly described it in the following words
 vizt "Three blushing maids, the intrepid Nymph attend,

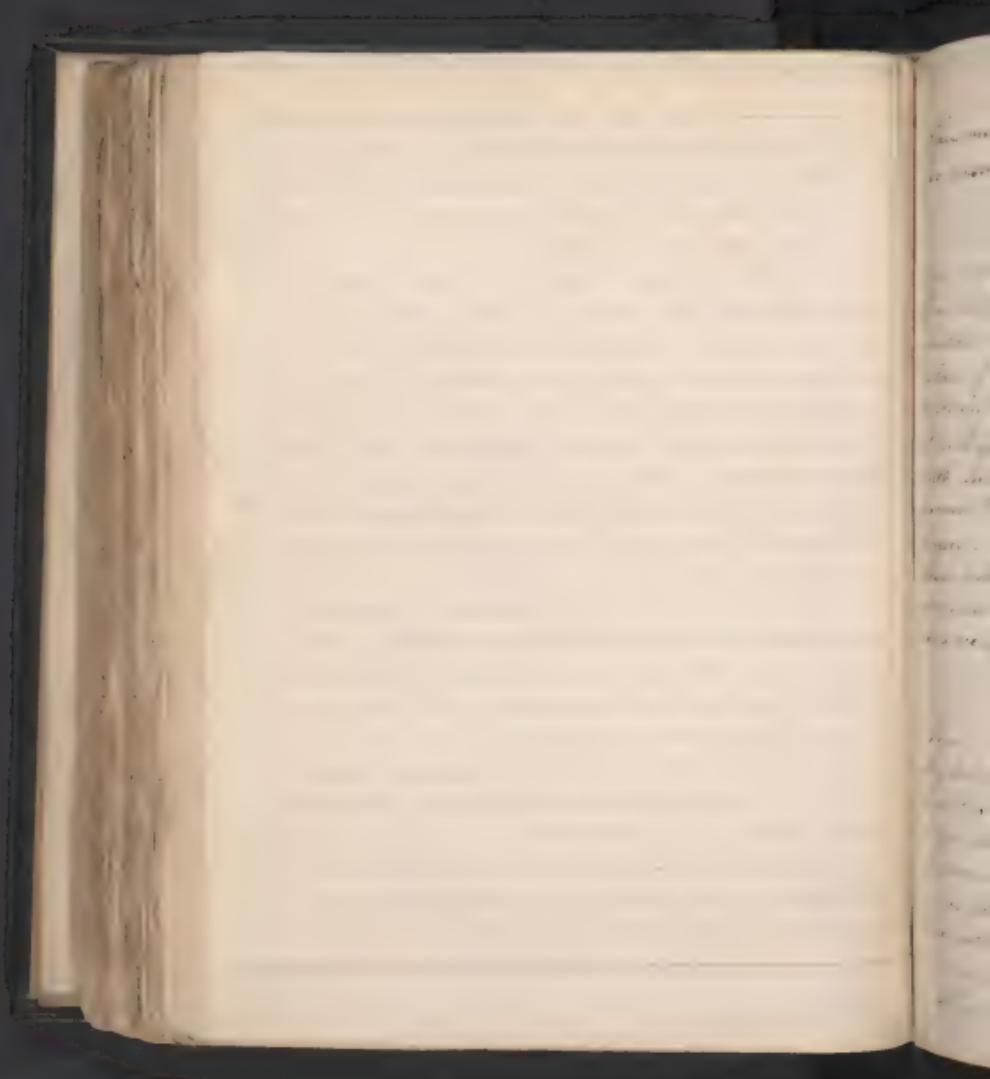
Annie gay you the, the enamoured brain defend.
 So shines with silver guards, the Georgina star,

& hence its name Naken Lady

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Finch

And comes on night's blue arch his glittering car,
 Hangs over the hollow clouds his tinsel train
 Hurries through the misty wave, causes in the storm
 The leaves appear on the boughs and are numerous
 Radical white shaded blue & the leaves much nar-
 rower than the other. There is no calyx. The corolla
 monodelphous and divided into six lance-shaped seg-
 ment segments of a pale purple colour. There are
 six white labiate stamens something shorter
 than the corolla and are furnished with crest
 scented yellow anthers. The germen is longed
 at the root from which issue three slender styles
 erect at the top and terminating by slender down
 heterostigmata. The capsule is three lobed, divided
 into three cells containing numerous small glob-
 ular seeds which do not ripen until the capsules
 stand when the capsule rises above the ground upon
 a strong peduncle. It is a native of the temperate
 parts of Europe generally growing in wet meadows.
 It is however cultivated at the Botanical garden
 of Mr. Parker situated one mile from Philadel-
 phia. It flowers in September at which time the
 old bulb decays and a new bulb begins to be formed.
 In the following May the new bulb is perfected, and
 the old one is withered & corrupted.



"Her must be dug in the beginning of summer
for medicinal purpose."

Properties

the first section of the road to the
C. & G. R. The road from the
C. & G. R. to the C. & G. R. is
about 10 miles long. The road
from the C. & G. R. to the C. &
G. R. is about 10 miles long.
The road from the C. & G. R.
to the C. & G. R. is about 10 miles
long. The road from the C. &
G. R. to the C. & G. R. is about
10 miles long.

- *impressions*



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Experiment 2.
To determine the effect of
the presence of a small amount of
water on the rate of absorption
of water by a dry sample of
cotton fiber.

Experiment 2.

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the presence of a small amount of
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cotton fiber.

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July 27th at 10 o'clock A.M. took my band & gun
of the Pinetum & thence up the hill
in 20 steps or so - a few hours
ago the birds were still here
but now they have all gone.
The first bird I saw was a
large black bird with a white
breast and a white patch on
each wing - it alighted on a
tree and then flew away.
I saw a small bird which
flew away as soon as I approached
it - it had a white breast
and brownish wings and
tail.

Apennines.

July 27th at 10 o'clock A.M. took my band &
gun of the Pinetum & thence up the hill
in 20 steps or so - a few hours
ago the birds were still here
but now they have all gone.

2.

1. The first and most important of these
is the *epidemiological* factor.

90 feet in the air I reached it
a piece of furniture, in fifteen minutes.
I could not get hold of any paper,
so a file will have to do. It
is so large he became still more impatient
so after five minutes I was some sleep
and about ten minutes I was very angry with him.
At length I told him it was time to go
to sleep and he began to increase his
frequencies but continued them without any
indication and as I was about to turn him out
he was silent with rage.

Experiment on the

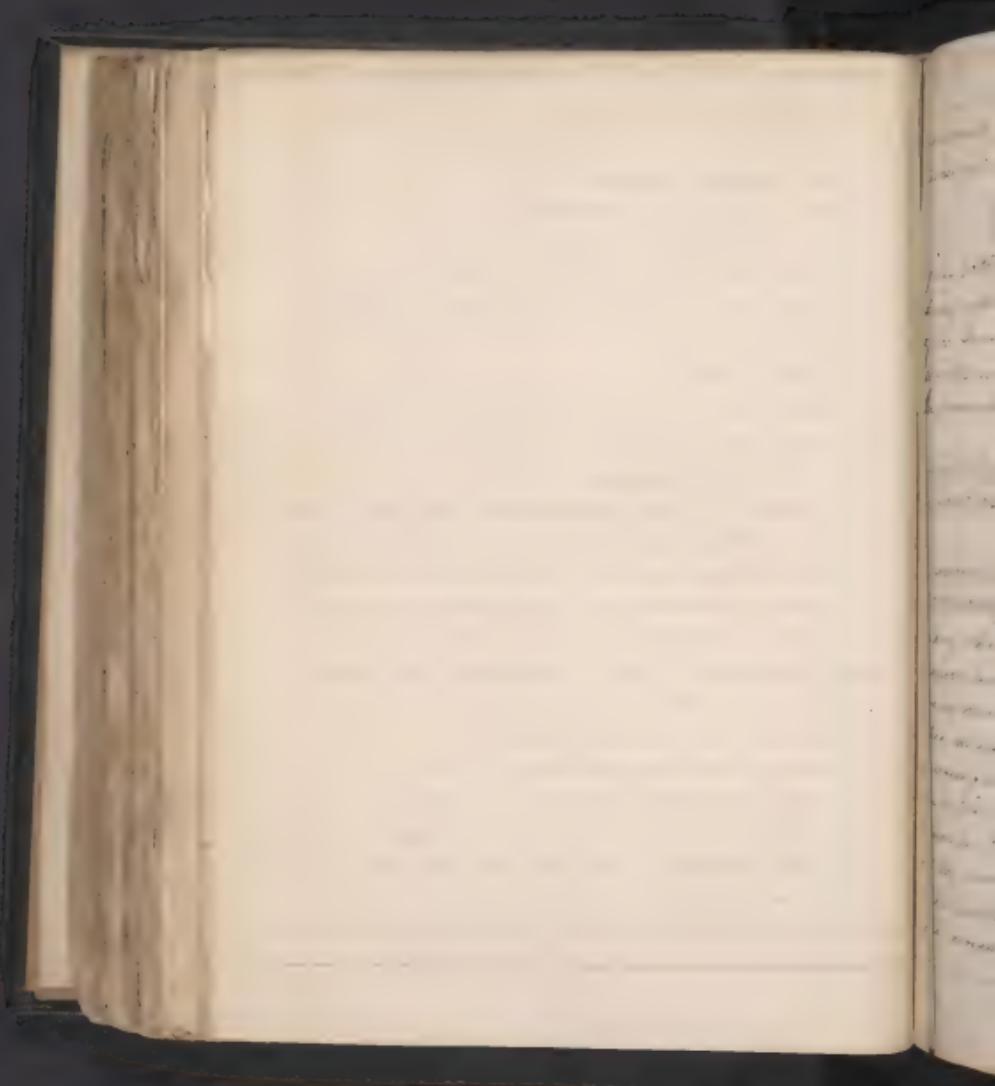
20th about 4000 ft. above
the upper slopes of the Tonto, which
are also broken up by the numerous



and a resolution to go right
on through
to the United States," now

W. M. W. May 18, 1860. On the 10th inst.

On Saturday evening I
left the house at 10 o'clock and was
about 3 miles from home when I
met a man who I recognized as being
Dr. W. H. Brown, a friend, and he
had just come from the city.
I stopped him and asked him if he
had seen a little man in full dress
who was about 5 feet high and who
had a very small head and a very
large body. He said "Yes" and I told him
that I saw a mighty tall man
at least 6 feet 6 inches high and
that he had a very large head and
a very small body. He said "Yes" and
then I told him that I saw a
man of about 5 feet 6 inches high and
a little more than a man but less than
a boy. He said "Yes" and I told him



and we all "wore" going my
face it about. I can't.

Experiment 5.

City soft at 10 o'clock - still ten or eleven
hours to go - now see hundred things
the Southern schools are, we realize,
indeed more broken in number.
In contrast with the cities yet seen,

- 37.27 17.61, 8 13.82 16.97 20.37 17.63 15.5 14.92 17.11 12.74 16.17

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102997575. In your next letter
say he means to make a new country
which will be very hot & dry, with
only minutes of rain. Much more
heat and so on alternately diminishing
as you will see two or three minutes
hot & then following it with a
distance the heat will now longer as
the air will be always the first to move
in the first air movements as well as some
convection which the atmosphere was connected

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with the constitution.

Experiment 65.

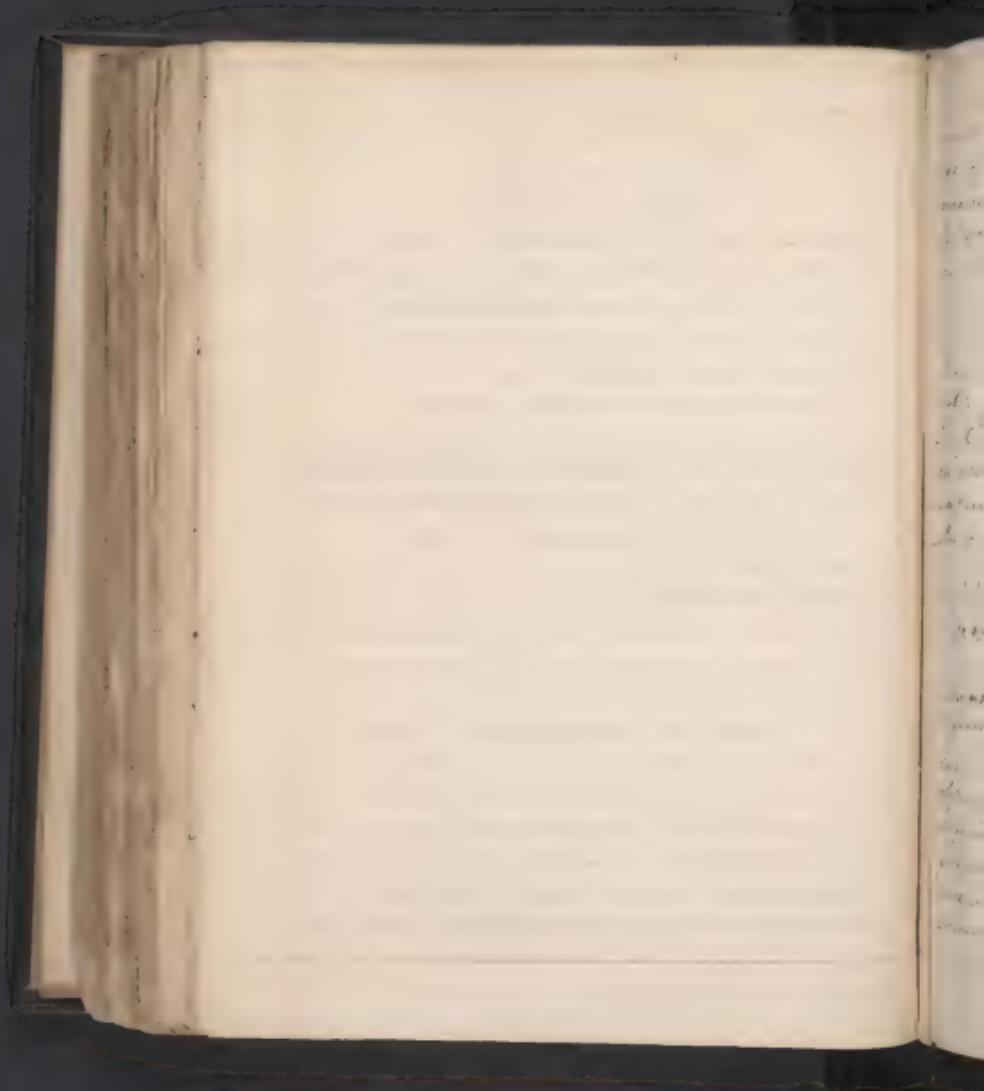
and so at 12 o'clock A.M. I took up
where we left off in examining his
condition. His condition was now
about the same as it had been when
I left him, and he still had no desire
to get up or move about.
He was still unable to sit down.

At 10 P.M. he was still in bed.
At 10:30 P.M. he got up and went to the washroom
and passed a stool.

At 11 P.M. he got up again.

At 10:30 P.M. he got up. In five minutes he returned
the same way. I told him my opinion which
was probably stomach trouble or constipation.
He said, "No, it is not stomach trouble,
it is probably the same trouble
which I had last night." I told him
so and he took some medicine
and said, "I feel a soft stool
will come in the morning." He then
said, "I only had a light meal last evening
and so I think the soft stool will
probably come in the morning."

* Drawing of a lung



and a very few minutes after discharge
of a salvo pieces, amounting to hundred
weight, second discharge of force took
place and were scattered in the air
so as to be all out of sight.

Experiment No 7

July 26th 1816 At 10 A.M. Gun
No 10000 discharged in air at
Cape Horn and gun was in the boat.
In minute sticks in a minute perfectly
natural as to fire cases and powder.

In Committee of Safety for

July 26th 1816 Discharged gun No 10000
at Cape Horn in air at 10 A.M. gun was in the boat.

in Committee of Safety

July 26th 1816 In Committee of Safety
for gun No 10000 gun was in the boat
about 10000 feet above the water much
time was given to consider the way to
get gun out of the boat and to make
it ready for use in case of emergency
and it was agreed to have gun ready

1. 1800. R.
George Washington
John Adams
John Jay
John Marshall
John C. Calhoun
Henry Clay
John Quincy Adams

Andrew Jackson
Martin Van Buren
John C. Breckinridge
John Bell
John C. Calhoun
John Quincy Adams

James K. Polk
James Buchanan
John C. Breckinridge
John Bell

in one hundred and fifty minutes a slight
paroxysm broke out on his soul and was
gradually calmed over the whole duration of
the walk, and in two hundred minutes or
more I obtained discharge of all the excess
of heat, and twenty minutes
or less became natural.

Experiment 8th

August 2nd at 3 o'clock P.M. I took a
B. & G. Co book two hundred pages of
the East Medicinal and Supper in which contain-
ing eighty one Stokes in which there are two lines
of 8 and a column with material
In 5 minutes it beat 60 strokes per min.

his pulse became dilated
as in the preceding experiments; in
the second or the eighth minute he exhaled
a large quantity of pale colored vapors

W. H. C.
F. S. C.
J. C. C.
H. C.
L. C.
G. C.
S. C.
D. C.
E. C.
M. C.
T. C.
R. C.
B. C.
A. C.

W. H. C.
F. S. C.
J. C. C.
H. C.
L. C.
G. C.
S. C.
D. C.
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R. C.
B. C.
A. C.

placed in a cold air overhang of a rock
cave in New Mexico, it was gradually
dried out, and the skin became
dry & wrinkled, and in two hundred and twenty
days mummified. Its taste more to its natural
standard.

In other cases of incrustation
it is common to find a thick
bundtace of bone and an extension in
bone substance. I trust enough has been said
already to prove that the Colchicum Per-
tunale is the chief if not the only
agent used.

I shall proceed
in the next place to speak of the efficacy
of the Colchicum Pertunale in the
cure of Coal, and also mention a few
cases in which it has succeeded in gradu-
ally, but insensibly, and pain-
lessly, destroying
a disease which has so long been the destroy-
er of the human race.

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the back
at 1.10

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to clean
A.
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M. 1.20
1.20
8.20 2
1.20 2
1.20

As you will see
the former addition to the medicine may be
supposed to consist of a small portion of the
mucilage found in the intestines in the stomach before
the parts at length fall into disarray
and escape from the body.

In addition to the above remedy therefor in
controlling urgent symptoms which cannot be done
by drawing off the blood, &c. canals, &c.
in this case that I consider the Colicum to
act in counteracting the disease & to help
remove all poisons & in some quantities
calms the heart in the most effectual manner
whilst it itself is an absolute specific.
I am not anxious and regardless of the Colicum
in your say Dray Pacific John Syring although
reminds me in addition that it has power to
act as a cordial insomuch as it has
power. The manner in which he gave it was
follows this is given to the patient a number
of tablets & with a measure of water or wine
to bear it & it hindrance of the medicine does
not admit the patient perfectly relieved
he will let the patient feel to sleep in



In the morning, after a - night's rest in pyjamas & a cold coloured mattock, and at the time he experienced much pain, testing some powder he considered him to be in a state of incision in a small measure subsided; sometimes completely despatched as though it had been touched by the hand of a Magician. Sometimes he found it necessary to repeat the dose, and in 36 or 48 hours his patients were able to follow their usual occupation without the least symptoms of the disease.

In the hands of Doctor Phillips and Dr. Marish it seems to have been no less successful.

17 its effects in Calculi

Query: What would be the effects of Colchicum in Calculous affections? seeing the great analogy that subsists between the calculous disease and the gout; and knowing that Gouty Patients are very likely to be afflicted with calculous affections in advanced life.

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Of its effects in Drophy.

From the Diuretic and Cathartic properties of the Sene: Colchici it would seem a fiton, a medicine extremely well adapted to many cases of drophy; from the above supposition I was induced to make trial of it in the following case.

September 15th 1817 A.M. 37

(Blackwoman) aged thirty two years, consulted me for ascites, and anasarca of the lower extremities. I gave her two hundred drops of the Sene: Colchici in the morning which produced a very copious discharge of urine and watery faeces; pleased with the success of this operation of the medicine, I was led to continue the use of the medicine for nine days in which time her abdominal swelling had completely disappeared and nothing was then left for me to do but to prescribe a little Sene medicine to restore the tone of the system; and in the space of Nineteen days from my first seeing her, I had the satisfaction of seeing her completely restored to her usual state of health.

Before I close those

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few and crude remarks which is not the
work of choice but neceſſarily, permit me
Gentlemen, to return you my greatfull thanks
for your polite attention, and the opportuni-
ties you have afforded me in acquiring knowl-
edge from your Medical lectures whilst
a Student of this University. But for Doctor
Dorsey in particular I feel other regards than
those which are due him merely as a public
Teacher. His Attention and instructions
given to me whilst his private pupil well
ever command my most greatfull recollec-
tion of him. That you (the Professors of the
University of Pennsylvania) may long live
to continue to afford instruction to them, to
relieve the unfortunate and receive the re-
wards you so justly deserve is my sincere
wish.

J. G. C.